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## FACT SHEET

### Kunar Construction Center

#### OVERVIEW

The Kunar Construction Center (KCC) is a vocational institute that offers construction skills training to underemployed and unemployed Afghans. The Center's purpose is to build a skilled local workforce that can then contribute to the growth of the local economy. The KCC provides its graduates with the confidence to work for local construction companies or to go into business for themselves. Following graduation, the KCC holds job fairs to match the newly skilled workers with employers. The Center has become a hub for gainful employment in the region – graduates enjoy a high rate of job placement – and a resource for local construction firms.

#### FACTS

- Kunar Construction Center opened March 1, 2008.
- The government and the local community donated the land, the Kunar PRT provided the buildings and testing laboratory, and USAID funds training and management of the Center.
- Training provided in electrical work, carpentry, plumbing, painting, masonry, and rebar placement.
- Four training sessions held per year, with up to 150 students trained in each three-month course.
- Job fairs held for each graduating class.
- Participants hail from eastern Afghanistan (Kunar, Laghman, Nangarhar, and Nuristan).
- The KCC also offers computer training to high school graduates and English language courses for ninth graders in nearby villages.

#### BENEFITS

- **Economic growth** – Construction is one of Afghanistan's fastest growing industries and the KCC provides skilled workers to meet the sector's needs.
- **Employment** – The majority of KCC's graduates find jobs in their construction specialties, enabling them to support their families and contribute to economic development.
- **Counterinsurgency** – The KCC provides useful job skills to the unemployed or underemployed, the same target demographic being heavily recruited by anti-government elements.
- **Local and international cooperation** – The KCC is a prime example of how local (community, government, and construction industry), military (Kunar Provincial Reconstruction Team), and international (USAID) efforts can lead to a successful institution that benefits Afghanistan.

#### RESULTS

- 500 students (four classes) graduated from the KCC and entered the workforce as of May 2009.
- The Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) has called the KCC a model for Afghanistan.
- The KCC began offering advanced courses including quality control and materials testing in spring 2009, responding to the demand of the construction industry.